

CROWELL & MORING LLP

1001 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-2595
(202) 624-2500
FACSIMILE (202) 628-5116

043:smd
01215.010

ROBERT M. HALPERIN
(202) 624-2543
rhalperin@cromor.com

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

October 31, 1996

SUITE 1200
2010 MAIN STREET
IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92614
(714) 263-8400
FACSIMILE (714) 263-8414
180 FLEET STREET
LONDON EC4A 3HD
44-171-413-0011
FACSIMILE 44-171-413-0333

EX-PARTE LETTER

BY HAND DELIVERY

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
OCT 31 1996
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Caton:

This letter is being filed, in duplicate, to report that late yesterday John W. Katz, Director of State/Federal Relations and Special Counsel to the Governor of the State of Alaska, wrote a letter which was sent by overnight delivery service for delivery today to each of the state members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Commissioners Johnson, McClure, Nelson and Schoenfelder and Ms. Hogerty) concerning certain views of the State of Alaska in this proceeding. Mr. Katz also wrote a letter late yesterday to each of the federal members of the Joint Board (Chairman Hundt and Commissioners Chong and Ness) on the same subject for hand delivery today. A copy of each of these letters is attached.

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

021

Mr. William F. Caton
October 31, 1996
Page 2

In the event there are any questions concerning this matter, please communicate with the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Halperin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Robert M. Halperin

Counsel for the State of Alaska

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable Julia Johnson
The Honorable Kenneth McClure
The Honorable Sharon L. Nelson
The Honorable Laska Schoenfelder
Martha S. Hogerty, Esquire
Regina M. Keeney, Esquire
John W. Katz, Esquire

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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OCT 31 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

October 30, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The issues that the Joint Board is confronting are of enormous importance to the people of Alaska. We have previously submitted comments in this proceeding, however, the enclosed list of points emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the State. We thought providing them to you now would be helpful as you finalize your deliberations.

Through passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Congress created the potential to assure that all Americans obtain access to affordable telecommunications services, including those that advance the development of the "information superhighway" to all, with special emphasis on education, telemedicine, and economic development. We urge you to take steps that will allow Alaskans to obtain these services at affordable rates to the same extent as enjoyed by other Americans. Access to high-quality telecommunications and information infrastructure is critical to the delivery of public health, safety, and education services in Alaska where vast distance, extreme terrain and inclement weather are the backdrop of daily life.

A copy of this letter is being filed with the Office of the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission for inclusion in the public file.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Katz".

John W. Katz
Director of State/Federal Relations
and Special Counsel to the Governor

Enclosure
cc: William F. Caton

ALASKA POSITION ON PENDING UNIVERSAL SERVICE ISSUES

The recommendations of the Joint Board and actions by the FCC should not lead to increases in rates for local exchange service. Increases in local exchange service rates would be contrary to Congressional intent. Thus, existing levels of universal service support for Alaska and other high cost areas must not be reduced.

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Universal service for telemedicine and education are important in rural and high cost areas, and particularly important in Alaska given the remoteness of many communities, the lack of roads, and the distance to the nearest health care and educational facilities and libraries. The principles of universal service adopted by Congress require that universal service support be provided as necessary to develop the telecommunications infrastructure needed to deliver telemedicine and Internet access to health care providers and educational facilities, respectively. The bandwidth available for these services in rural and high cost areas should be adequate to satisfy reasonable health care and educational requirements.

Universal service support should be stable and not create tensions between telecommunications "have's" and "have-not's." Thus, mechanisms such as explicit line items on consumer bills that would be polarizing and destabilizing should not be employed.



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

October 30, 1996

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
Room 844
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

The issues that the Joint Board is confronting are of enormous importance to the people of Alaska. We have previously submitted comments in this proceeding, however, the enclosed list of points emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the State. We thought providing them to you now would be helpful as you finalize your deliberations.

Through passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Congress created the potential to assure that all Americans obtain access to affordable telecommunications services, including those that advance the development of the "information superhighway" to all, with special emphasis on education, telemedicine, and economic development. We urge you to take steps that will allow Alaskans to obtain these services at affordable rates to the same extent as enjoyed by other Americans. Access to high-quality telecommunications and information infrastructure is critical to the delivery of public health, safety, and education services in Alaska where vast distance, extreme terrain and inclement weather are the backdrop of daily life.

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Director of State/Federal Relations
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Enclosure
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

October 30, 1996

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

The issues that the Joint Board is confronting are of enormous importance to the people of Alaska. We have previously submitted comments in this proceeding, however, the enclosed list of points emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the State. We thought providing them to you now would be helpful as you finalize your deliberations.

Through passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Congress created the potential to assure that all Americans obtain access to affordable telecommunications services, including those that advance the development of the "information superhighway" to all, with special emphasis on education, telemedicine, and economic development. We urge you to take steps that will allow Alaskans to obtain these services at affordable rates to the same extent as enjoyed by other Americans. Access to high-quality telecommunications and information infrastructure is critical to the delivery of public health, safety, and education services in Alaska where vast distance, extreme terrain and inclement weather are the backdrop of daily life.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Director of State/Federal Relations
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

October 30, 1996

The Honorable Julia Johnson, Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
Capital Circle Office Center
2540 Shurmard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

The issues that the Joint Board is confronting are of enormous importance to the people of Alaska. We have previously submitted comments in this proceeding, however, the enclosed list of points emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the State. We thought providing them to you now would be helpful as you finalize your deliberations.

Through passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Congress created the potential to assure that all Americans obtain access to affordable telecommunications services, including those that advance the development of the "information superhighway" to all, with special emphasis on education, telemedicine, and economic development. We urge you to take steps that will allow Alaskans to obtain these services at affordable rates to the same extent as enjoyed by other Americans. Access to high-quality telecommunications and information infrastructure is critical to the delivery of public health, safety, and education services in Alaska where vast distance, extreme terrain and inclement weather are the backdrop of daily life.

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Director of State/Federal Relations
and Special Counsel to the Governor

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Kenneth McClure, Vice Chairman
Missouri Public Service Commission
301 W. High Street, Suite 530
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Vice Chairman McClure:

The issues that the Joint Board is confronting are of enormous importance to the people of Alaska. We have previously submitted comments in this proceeding, however, the enclosed list of points emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the State. We thought providing them to you now would be helpful as you finalize your deliberations.

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Director of State/Federal Relations
and Special Counsel to the Governor

Enclosure
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

October 30, 1996

The Honorable Sharon L. Nelson, Chairman
Washington Utilites and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Nelson:

The issues that the Joint Board is confronting are of enormous importance to the people of Alaska. We have previously submitted comments in this proceeding, however, the enclosed list of points emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the State. We thought providing them to you now would be helpful as you finalize your deliberations.

Through passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Congress created the potential to assure that all Americans obtain access to affordable telecommunications services, including those that advance the development of the "information superhighway" to all, with special emphasis on education, telemedicine, and economic development. We urge you to take steps that will allow Alaskans to obtain these services at affordable rates to the same extent as enjoyed by other Americans. Access to high-quality telecommunications and information infrastructure is critical to the delivery of public health, safety, and education services in Alaska where vast distance, extreme terrain and inclement weather are the backdrop of daily life.

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Enclosure
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OCT 31 1996

CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 30, 1996

The Honorable Laska Schoenfelder, Commissioner
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capital Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Schoenfelder:

The issues that the Joint Board is confronting are of enormous importance to the people of Alaska. We have previously submitted comments in this proceeding, however, the enclosed list of points emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the State. We thought providing them to you now would be helpful as you finalize your deliberations.

Through passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Congress created the potential to assure that all Americans obtain access to affordable telecommunications services, including those that advance the development of the "information superhighway" to all, with special emphasis on education, telemedicine, and economic development. We urge you to take steps that will allow Alaskans to obtain these services at affordable rates to the same extent as enjoyed by other Americans. Access to high-quality telecommunications and information infrastructure is critical to the delivery of public health, safety, and education services in Alaska where vast distance, extreme terrain and inclement weather are the backdrop of daily life.

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OCT 31 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 30, 1996

Martha S. Hogerty
Public Counsel for the State of Missouri
P.O. Box 7800
Harry S. Truman Building, Room 250
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Hogerty:

The issues that the Joint Board is confronting are of enormous importance to the people of Alaska. We have previously submitted comments in this proceeding, however, the enclosed list of points emphasize those areas of greatest importance to the State. We thought providing them to you now would be helpful as you finalize your deliberations.

Through passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Congress created the potential to assure that all Americans obtain access to affordable telecommunications services, including those that advance the development of the "information superhighway" to all, with special emphasis on education, telemedicine, and economic development. We urge you to take steps that will allow Alaskans to obtain these services at affordable rates to the same extent as enjoyed by other Americans. Access to high-quality telecommunications and information infrastructure is critical to the delivery of public health, safety, and education services in Alaska where vast distance, extreme terrain and inclement weather are the backdrop of daily life.

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